



### **On the other side:**

A Message Concerning the  
Economic Development of  
the Silas Deane Highway



## **State Senator John Fonfara**

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**Representing the 1st District: Hartford & Wethersfield**

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## State Senator John Fonfara

# A Message Concerning the Economic Development of the Silas Deane Highway



Dear Friends,

Representing Wethersfield residents in the General Assembly, I know what a great town Wethersfield is, and how important it is to all of us to keep it that way. But keeping it that way requires us to acknowledge the unique challenge we face generating additional revenue to support town services, while keeping property taxes under control.

A big part of the challenge is that Wethersfield has a fairly small commercial property tax base, very small industrial tax base, and very little space available for new development. The town leadership has done great work maintaining town services. However, the inability to generate revenue from sources other than property taxes paid primarily by homeowners, has made their job very difficult.



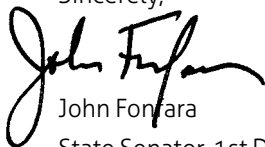
### Wethersfield's Silas Deane Highway

The Silas Deane Highway is the primary source of commercial revenue for Wethersfield. While there are many successful businesses, the Silas Deane has the potential to be a more significant economic engine for the community. Achieving this will not be easy, but I believe that by working together to identify opportunities for innovative development, we *can* create a Silas Deane that contributes more to the tax base of the town.

Together with State Senator Paul Doyle and State Representatives Russ Morin and Tony Guerrera, I am initiating an effort to create a **Silas Deane Task Force** to seek answers: How do we interest developers and attract new investment? What will it take to substantially increase tax revenue? What assistance can the State provide? What role does the town play? Working with the Town Council, business owners and residents, we will seek input from developers to better understand how to chart a course for a more vibrant Silas Deane, one that will result in increasing the tax base, which is so important to the future of Wethersfield.

I look forward to working with you on this endeavor in the New Year.

Sincerely,



John Fonfara

State Senator, 1st District